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Statement By Archbishop Caccia At The 2024 High-Level Political Forum On Sustainable Development: African Countries, LDCs, And LLDCs

By H. E. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia

Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

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Madam Chair,

My Delegation welcomes the discussion today on building resilience and capacity in times of crises and transition in LDCs, LLDCs and African Countries. Assisting countries in special situations in achieving sustainable development is a responsibility of the international community as a “family of nations”. It is clear that African Countries, LDCs, and LLDCs play an indispensable role in this global community and thus merit support.

These Countries are confronted with a number of significant challenges, including substantial debt burdens, limited economic growth, persistent food insecurity and malnutrition, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, which hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a family of nations, ensuring that the specific development needs and priorities of countries in special situations are properly addressed is not a choice, but a moral imperative.

Madam Chair,

African countries, LDCs, and LLDCs face distinctive, substantial, and inherent challenges that necessitate bespoke support from the international community.

In recent years, we have observed crises that have tested the resilience and capacity of these nations. These include the detrimental effects of climate change, such as prolonged

droughts and extreme flooding, the economic and social upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the emergence of new conflicts. It is regrettable that these crises persist, and it is thus imperative to determine how to build resilience and capacity in these nations.

In the light of the inherent vulnerabilities of these countries, a comprehensive and multifaceted approach is required to build resilience. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to implement measures to strengthen healthcare systems, improve and expand access to education, foster economic diversification, and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

It is similarly important to consider capacity building. In this regard, it is imperative to emphasize the pivotal role of education and vocational training as a cornerstone for long-term stability and growth. By investing in human capital, we not only empower individuals, but also enable these nations to contribute meaningfully to global development.

It is evident that these undertakings, both individually and collectively, will not be possible with these countries acting alone. It is therefore incumbent upon the wealthiest nations to provide the necessary resources, knowledge, and technologies in a tangible demonstration of global solidarity.

In conclusion, the Holy See calls for a renewed affirmation of the shared commitment to the sustainable development of countries in special situations through tangible action and enhanced cooperation. It is only through collective efforts and shared responsibility that a sustainable future for African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and, by extension, for our entire family of nations, can be built.

Thank you.



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